

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0631

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, CH

SUBJECT: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER TRANSITS ROME

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CH'IAO KUAN-HUA MADE A ONE-HOUR STOPOVER AT ROME'S FIUMICINO AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 15 EN ROUTE FROM PARIS TO TEHRAN. MFA SOURCES STATE THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE STOPOVER BY THE CHINESE EMBASSY ONLY 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE AND HAD DECIDED TO HANDLE IT IN A STRICTLY PROTOCOLARY MANNER. ACCORDINGLY, MFA'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WENT TO THE AIRPORT TO GREET CH'IAO DURING THE TRANSIT.

2. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT, PROTOCOL CHIEF WAS SURPRISED TO FIND SENATE PRESIDENT AMINTORE FANFANI ON HAND TO GREET THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER. (FANFANI HAD MET HIM DURING HIS VISIT TO THE PRC TEN MONTHS AGO.) ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, FANFANI'S PRESENCE AT THE AIRPORT WAS ARRANGED DIRECTLY BY THE CHINESE EMBASSY AND NOT THROUGH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE SOURCES ADDED THAT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CH'IAO AND FANFANI ABOUT THE CURRENT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA.

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3. COMMENT. CHINESE BEHAVIOR IN CONTACTING FANFANI IS

ANOTHER CLEAR SIGN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SHIFT IN THEIR
OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF AN ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI)
PARTICIPATION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTS A FURTHER
REBUFF TO RECENT PCI INITIATIVES AIMED AT RE-OPENING A DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE PCI. VOLPE

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